MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Yes. There is a staff of one Forester, 4 guards and 2 watchers to protect the frontier forests, and, as a result, smuggling has largely decreased.

Report of the Committee on Royalties.

165. MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) whether they have approved of the report of the Forest Committee on Royalties; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether the Forest Department is following the report?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The report of the Royalty Committee is under the consideration of Government.

(*b*) The question does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Repair of bridges in Alleppey.

166. MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that the public of Alleppey are suffering very much on account of the damaged condition of the bridges; and

(*b*) whether they have any intention of repairing the damaged bridges?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The Kothuvalchavady bridge and the Chungom bridge are in bad condition. The latter is under reconstruction and proposals for reconstructing the former are under consideration.

Increase of Crimes in Alleppey town.

167. MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware:

(*a*) that due to busy traffic and easy communication both by land and water, rowdies and thieves have been frequenting Alleppey in large numbers; and

(*b*) that murders and thefts have increased largely in the town of Alleppey?

MR. T. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Improvements in transport may have led to an increase in vagrant bad characters.

(*b*) There has been an increase in the number of murders and thefts.

Improvement of Agriculture in the Pattanapuram Taluk.

168. MR. H. B. MAHOMED ROWTHER (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Director of Agriculture has visited the Pattanapuram taluk;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether his visits have tended to improve the agriculture of the place;

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